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IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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423 Rec'd PCT/PTO 16 SEP 1999

In re the Application of:)

SODER, James T. and)
OSTRANDER, Bruce K.)

Date of Entry into the
National Stage: September 16, 1999

International Application No.: PCT/US98/05433)

National Stage Serial No.: New

International Filing Date: March 19, 1998)

For: METAL FRAMING SYSTEM)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND STATEMENT OF
PAYMENT OF FEES UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.492**

Box PCT Attention: DO/EO/US
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows, and consider the following remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 39, Line 1, after "Claim" delete "36" and in place thereof insert "--38 --".

REMARKS

Claim 39 has been amended to correct an inadvertent error in the dependency of this Claim. More particularly, Claim 39 has been amended to depend from Claim 38, rather than Claim 36, in order to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The recitations of Claim 39 include the following in part: "wherein for each of said bridge member..." Antecedent basis for the recitation in Claim 39 of "said bridge member" is not provided in prior base Claim 29, prior intervening Claims 32, 35, and 36 from which Claim 39 previously depended. However, the last paragraph of new base Claim 38 recites "a plurality of bridge members...", which provides antecedent basis for the recitation of "bridge member" in Claim 39. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 39 complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and therefore Examiner's approval of the included amendment to Claim 39 is respectfully requested.